

Hiking with Dogs in the Tucson Area

Saguaro National Park

For the protection of your animal, other visitors and Saguaro National Park, pets are allowed only on roadways or in picnic areas, except Mam-A-Gah picnic area in the west district as it is only accessible by trail. Pets may not be taken on any trail, off roadways, or inside either visitor center at any time. Where allowed, pets must be kept on a leash at all times while in Saguaro National Park. Leash length may not exceed 6 feet.

Service animals accompanying a disabled person are exempt from this law and may go anywhere their owners are permitted to go.

Rincon Mountain District (east) (520) 733-5153

Tucson Mountain District (west) (520) 733-5158

There are several reasons dogs are not allowed on trails within Saguaro National Park.

Safety for the dog - Many threats exist within the park such as cactus spines, bites from rattlesnakes and heat stroke which can lead to death.

Safety and consideration for other trail users - Some people specifically hike at Saguaro National Park to avoid pets on trail. In areas where dogs are allowed on trail, other trail users have been bitten by dogs, even those on leash.

Impacts on native wildlife - Native wildlife can be displaced by the scent and presence of predatory animals such as domestic dogs. Additionally, coyotes and foxes can be affected by diseases common to pets, such as parvo.

Tucson Parks and Recreation Department

Dogs are allowed within all Tucson City Parks if leashed. Columbus Park, in the northwest part of Tucson, has a leash-free area for dogs. Tucson Parks and Recreation Department (520) 791-4873

Pima County Parks and Recreation Department

Dogs are allowed within most Pima County Parks if leashed. Dogs are NOT allowed in the Tucson Mountain County Park, except for Gilbert Ray Campground. MacDonald Park, located in the northeast part of Tucson, has a leash -free area for dogs. Pima County Parks and Recreation Department (520) 877-6000

Arizona State Parks

Dogs are allowed within Arizona State Parks if leashed. Call the Arizona State Parks for specific information regarding dogs on trails. Arizona State Parks (520) 542-4174

Coronado National Forest	Dogs are allowed within most areas of the Coronado National Forest if leashed. Dogs are NOT allowed in the Pusch Ridge Wilderness Area or Sabino Canyon Recreation Area. Call for specific information regarding other areas of the Coronado National Forest.	Coronado National Forest (520) 670-4552 (520) 749-8700
Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge	Dogs are allowed within the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge if leashed. Call for specific information regarding dogs on trails.	Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge (520) 823-4251
Bureau of Land Management Tucson Office	Dogs are allowed on Bureau of Land Management property if leashed. Call for specific information regarding dogs on trails or in wilderness areas.	Bureau of Land Management (520) 722-4289
Safety Concerns and Pet Etiquette	Where allowed on trail, dogs are safer when leashed. Negative encounters with wildlife, other people and law enforcement officers will be reduced if your dog remains on leash. Make sure your dog is in good physical condition and able to tolerate the heat and rocky terrain. Carry plenty of water and first aid gear for you and your dog. Never leave pets unattended inside vehicles, especially during summer.	Temperatures can reach over 125 degrees within minutes. Always watch for hikers, horseback riders, mountain bikers and vehicles. Be alert for wildlife, especially venomous creatures such as rattlesnakes and scorpions. Always follow the rules of the area you are visiting so that others will be able to enjoy hiking with their dogs in the future. If in doubt, ask first.
Lost Pets	If you lose your dog, the two places that normally receive lost pets are the Pima County Animal Control office or the Humane Society of Tucson.	Pima County Animal Control (520) 743-7550 Humane Society of Tucson (520) 327-6088